

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1-34. (Cancelled)

35. (New) A transgenic plant comprising a nucleic acid encoding a microbial  $\beta$ -1,4-endoglucanase (EC 3.2.1.4), wherein said nucleic acid is stably integrated into a nuclear or plastid genome of the plant and is under the control of a promoter active in a plant.

36. (New) The transgenic plant of claim 35, wherein the promoter is a wound inducible or a chemically-inducible promoter.

37. (New) The transgenic plant of claim 36, wherein the chemically-inducible promoter is selected from the group consisting of a PR-1, PR-1a, PR-2, PR-3, PR-4, and PR-5 promoter.

38. (New) The transgenic plant of claim 35, wherein the microbial  $\beta$ -1,4-endoglucanase is from a *Thermomonospora* bacterium.

39. (New) The transgenic plant of claim 38, wherein the microbial  $\beta$ -1,4-endoglucanase is thermostable.

40. (New) The transgenic plant of claim 38, where in the microbial  $\beta$ -1,4-endoglucanase is from *T. fusca*.

41. (New) A transgenic seed obtained from the plant of claim 35.

42. (New) A transgenic plant comprising a nucleic acid encoding a microbial  $\beta$ -1,4-endoglucanase (EC 3.2.1.4) and a vacuole targeting sequence, wherein the nucleic acid is stably integrated into a nuclear or plastid genome of the plant and is under control of a promoter active in a plant.

43. (New) The transgenic plant of claim 42, wherein the promoter is a wound inducible or a chemically-inducible promoter.
44. (New) The transgenic plant of claim 43, wherein the chemically-inducible promoter is selected from the group consisting of a PR-1, PR-1a, PR-2, PR-3, PR-4, and PR-5 promoter.
45. (New) The transgenic plant of claim 42, wherein the microbial  $\beta$ -1,4-endoglucanase is from a *Thermomonospora* bacterium.
46. (New) The transgenic plant of claim 45, wherein the microbial  $\beta$ -1,4-endoglucanase is thermostable.
47. (New) The transgenic plant of claim 45, where in the microbial  $\beta$ -1,4-endoglucanase is from *T. fusca*.
48. (New) A transgenic seed obtained from the plant of claim 42.